

## Local and Personal Items

**JUST ARRIVED--Shoes for spring wear.** Wm. A. Daggett, the Store that keeps the prices down.

Mrs. Guy D. Dean and little daughter, Sarah Evelyn, spent Saturday with Miss Laura Rankin, of Gulfport.

Mr. J. D. Clark spent Sunday with home folks.

Orlando C. Clark, W. C. Havens spent Saturday in New Orleans.

Mr. J. E. Emott visited friends in Gulfport Sunday.

**Thirty Votes For One On Our Piano Contest, Saturday, March 13th.** Cox, Shop of Quality.

Little Miss Helena Sarah Stevens daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Stevens takes this means of announcing to her friends that she is in the contest for the "Ford Auto" to be given away at W. M. Canty's, and any votes entered for her will be appreciated.

Mr. Sanders Seaward, returned on Thursday to Palestine, Texas.

Mr. Frank Galt visited in Mobile Sunday.

**I Buy Sacks, Barrels, Copper and Brass.** F. H. DELMAS.

Mr. Louis White returned Tuesday night from New Orleans, La.

Mr. W. E. Frederic returned Friday night from New Orleans after a week's stay in the Crescent City.

Mr. J. G. Blackwell spent Monday in the Crescent City.

**All Kinds of Garden Tools at DELCOMYN'S**

Mrs. W. Mansfield left for New Orleans on Tuesday taking with her Miss Penna Vellish who will undergo

### ADAM BLUMER BURIED

#### Moss Point Man Long Prominent in Gulf Coast Affairs

Moss Point, Miss., Mar. 6.—The funeral of Adam Blumer, who died in this city Thursday, took place Saturday from the Presbyterian church. The services were conducted by the pastor, the Rev. J. C. Watt, D. D., assisted by Revs. B. F. Jones and N. R. Stone, pastor of the Methodist and Baptist churches respectively. Dr. Watt conducted a most impressive service and many times during the course of his remarks paid tribute to the life and character of Mr. Blumer.

At the conclusion of the services at the church the Masons, of which order Mr. Blumer has been a member for more than fifty years, took charge and the body was borne to the hearse and thence to the Griffin Cemetery where it was deposited in its final resting place by the members of that order.

There were many persons from along the coast who were here to attend the funeral. Floral offerings were sent from afar which marked the high esteem in which the deceased was held. Many of these tributes were from business as well as personal friends. Both banks and several of the business houses closed during the hour of the funeral. For more than forty years Mr. Blumer has been a familiar figure in the commercial life of this city.

#### Ah! The Invigorating Whiff Of The Pine Forest!

How it clears the throat and head of its noxious ailments. It is this spirit of Newness and Vigor from the healing vine Piney Forests brought here by Dr. Bette's Pine Tar Honey. And it's pure and healing. Buy a bottle today. All druggists, 25c.

### A WONDERFUL HEALING INFLUENCE IN KIDNEY TROUBLE

Blumer  
A year and a half ago I was taken with a severe attack of Kidney trouble that pinned me to such an extent that morphine had to be given me. Was attended by a doctor who pronounced it as Stone in the Bladder and prescribed Litbia Water. I took Litbia Water and Tablets for some time and received no relief from them. I stopped taking medicines for some time, later having some Swamp-Root in the house I decided to try it and felt much relieved. While taking the second bottle commenced to pass gravel in urine until I had passed in all at least a half dozen or more and have not suffered the slightest since and in all have taken one bottle and a half and feel very grateful to Swamp-Root.

Yours very truly,  
H. W. SPINKS,  
Camp Hill, Ala.  
Personally appeared before me this 10th day of August, 1900, H. W. Spinks, who subscribed the above statement and made oath that the same is true in substance and in fact.  
A. B. LEE,  
Ex. of Justice of Peace.

Letter to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

#### Prove What Swamp-Root Will Do For You

Send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for sample size bottle. It will convince anyone. You will also receive a booklet of valuable information, telling about the kidneys and bladder. When writing, be sure and mention the Pascagoula Weekly Democrat-Star. Regular fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles for sale at all drug stores. Adv

#### Canty's Store Robbed

Some one either was locked up in Canty's store or visited it Monday night and got away with \$15 in currency which was left in the register as change for the following day, and a few nickels which were in a cigar machine. As far as could be ascertained no goods were stolen. The burglar left no clue and has not yet been apprehended.

#### Ought to Paint

I ought to have painted last year, but I hated to pay \$2 a gallon. I've got to paint this year; it'll take a little more paint, I suppose I

Mrs. Yeer on

Gree I tell o derive years. not give title ar Vinol have recom friend factor Green

Such coming this vi vigora able to

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**"THE SMITHS ARE THE GREATEST" - JIMMY KATZ**



Arthur Smith

3-7-68

Blumer

## Older Citizens Reminisce On Demise Of Blumer Plant



Blumer 3

It is possible to belabor a subject overduly, but the comments I made in two columns recently on the extensive industrial operations of the late A. Blumer and his family in Moss Point did not fall into the category.

They freshened up memories of senior citizens who were associated with events in this area during the last quarter of the past century and the first two decades of the present. So they began to reminisce and remind one another how tragic it was that the diversified industries established by the Swiss immigrants did not sink their roots deeper into Jackson County soil and give an earlier start to the current industrial upsurge.

All of them are gone, having withered away with time and change and the end of the era of sawmills and lumber exporting. Yet it is possible that most of them could have adjusted, conformed and survived.

Mr. Blumer came to Moss Point about 1871 and saw the need for small factories and retail outlets for the people who were slowly recovering from the effects of the Civil War. He centered his activities in his store on Main Street where it parallels the Escatawpa River. There he was postmaster and agent for the telegraph company. Then he built factories.

Among them were the only steam grist mill in this area, and people from distant places came to buy his product. Soon a factory to manufacture spokes, tool handles and other hardwood products was in operation. A shoe factory was built to make shoes from leather from his own tannery, and this was followed by a factory to make brick. Whatever people needed and he could obtain and retail or manufacture, he provided. His real estate holdings in Moss Point and Pascagoula were extensive.

His largest operation and the last to wither and die was Blumer's Foundry and Machine Shop. Here he made the famed "Blumer Steam Engine" from raw iron that powered tugboats he owned and others that puffed up and down the Escatawpa River. As saw-

mills were established, he built their machinery. He had pattern makers, moulders and machinists to repair or make replacements for the estimated 25 mills that at one time were slicing up virgin logs in the county. He could cast and complete propellers, pumps and shafts.

### SAWMILL ERA

The sawmill and small steamboat era drew to a close with the coming of World War I. Blumer solicited work from the mills along the routes of interior railroads, and got a lift by making castings for the Southern Paper Company's mill when it was built in 1912. But the services he offered with the facilities he had no longer had a place in the market.

W. J. Canfield of Escatawpa, 74, said he was the last worker at the copper-colored foundry at the corner of Main Street and Dantzler Avenue. He and Henry Blumer, son of the founder and the chief mechanic, gradually disposed of the outdated equipment and the residue was sold for scrap. Canfield went to work for the paper mill and retired after 41 years.

Canfield recalled that some of the mechanics employed there were Elmer Purtell and Noll McLeod of Moss Point and Joe Scheffler of Pascagoula. There were numerous others whose names he could not remember.

Elwood Poitevin of Pascagoula said he bought the foundry's iron safe when the plant was being dismantled. It had a huge door with a lock but no key. He sent the door to New Orleans to have a key made, and still has the useable safe at the his home on Lake Avenue.

James Gautier of Kreole called to say that Blumer made the iron boiler equipment, except saws, for a sawmill his grandfather, Fernander Gautier built in Gautier just after the Civil War. My paternal grandfather, a native of Clydebank in Scotland, was a blacksmith for several years in the foundry, and many other descendants of the skilled mechanics who worked there can recall the foundry's demise and the passing of the County's first industrial complex.

Arthur Smith  
Collection

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# Blumer Empire Declined Blumer 4

By ARTHUR SMITH

In this column of February 20 was an account of the diversified industrial empire which the late Adam Blumer owned and operated in Moss Point during the last half of the past century and the first decade of the present.

A native of Switzerland, Mr. Blumer arrived in Mobile at age 15, was married there to a German girl, Amelia Mink, and some years later, about 1866, was operating a sawmill in Handsboro with two partners. Just when he moved to Moss Point is not certain, but it is believed it was before 1871, when he built the home still standing at 137 Main Street.

He then operated a general merchandise store, receiving supplies by boats which tied up at a dock across the old sawdust road on the Escatawpa River.

He was endowed with a perceptiveness of what was needed in the area struggling to recover from the wreckage of the Reconstruction period following the Civil War. He sold almost everything people



SMITH

could or would buy, and some of the offerings were listed in the previous article of February 20.

Mr. Blumer was postmaster at Moss Point from May 4, 1874, until August 8, 1892, and again from September 25, 1885, to February 19, 1890.

The sawmill and timbering operations began to assume large proportions about 1880 and traffic and trade on the river increased. Moss Point and Pascagoula soon became the largest exporting center of lumber of any Gulf port.

It was about this time that Mr. Blumer saw a need for merchandise and manufactured products that could be had from distant markets and he enlarged his store and began to establish small factories to supply the area's needs.

A grist mill producing food and feed products was among the first. It was located on the river front. This was followed by a factor for making wagon and buggy spokes, handles for hand tools and other hardwood products in a plant he built on the river between Robinson and Dantzler Streets. This building and its equipment with some of the products was still standing in the early 1900's.

As reported in the previous

article, he manufactured shoes from leather tanned in his own tannery from hides he purchased locally. There is no record of where this plant was located, nor can anyone recall where he obtained craftsmen for his shoe factory.

NOTING the quickened pace of commercial and residential building, Blumer began making brick from the native clay on a site behind the Blumer Bounds home on Bellview Avenue. The property was in the news recently as a location for a new school building and was rejected for that purpose.

The bricks are in many an old structure in this section. The most prominent is the Masonic Hall on Main Street which bears a legend "Blumer Building, 1917." Just south of that once stood a frame two-story structure called "Blumer's Hall." He built it to accommodate traveling lecturers, public meetings, picture shows and such when he saw a need for a meeting hall.

Four of Mr. Blumer's sons, Henry, Emile, John and Lienhard, grew up to help him manage his varied operations. All were mechanics, except John who managed the store until it was closed. For some years John was also agent and operator for the Western Union in the store. Henry was master mechanic and manager of Blumer's Foundry, the largest unit of the Blumer empire, and Emile and Lienhard were marine engineers.

The steam tug "Alberta" was built and equipped by Mr. Blumer as were other river craft which he owned and operated.

Blumer's Foundry and Machine Shop was the largest and most extensive in scope of all his many activities. It stood on the corner of Main and Dantzler Streets. Built to meet the critical needs of the sawmills and other small enterprises and the river craft of the period, it flourished more than any of the enterprises.

JOHN BLUMER, a superb craftsman, was superintendent and the best mechanic in Pascagoula, Escatawpa and Moss Point worked there. They could do anything in iron, brass and copper and make anything

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Honesty Rare

Dear Editor:

First, let me say I thank God for a man like George Wallace of Alabama. Although a small man in size, he is not afraid to stand up to the world and tell the truth. Truth and honesty is a rare thing nowadays.

I am also thankful for Mr. Paul Harvey. We still have a few men who will stand up and not compromise. I would like for somebody to please tell me whose side we are on not only in Vietnam but in every Communist country. While our men are being slaughtered and crippled for life, we are playing ice hockey and every other kind of sport with the Russians. Well, I guess it's alright as long as

By the way, I voted for a man a few years back who said he was going to free the tall one. I guess he forgot to say he repented.

I would like to say to these people who work in the shipyard or in town. If you are traveling a long ways to and from work and decide to move this way, you had better check on these high utilities, and high taxes, and these fine streets, have been floating bonds to put four inches of black top on. Looks good till the first rain. You couldn't find one half inch of black top at any of the holes. Who got the black top? The taxpayers didn't.

Wouldn't this be a wonderful place to live and raise our family if everyone was honest, and



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SMITH

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JOHN BLUMER, a superb craftsman, was superintendent and the best mechanic in Pascagoula, Escatawpa and Moss Point working there. They could do anything with iron, brass and copper and make anything needed in the industrial area.

Besides making and repairing equipment for sawmills in the entire river systems, they built the patterns and moulded and cast steam engines, propellers and all iron work needed for floating craft. This was done in the foundry. The machine shop completed the process to precise measurements.

Mr. Blumer had extensive real estate holdings in both Moss Point and Pascagoula. They included commercial buildings, dwelling houses and many acres of open land. Before his death in 1914, the separate units of his industrial complex began to wane and were abandoned, and the properties passed to his heirs, among whom they were eventually divided.

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I would also like to comment on the talk of building a roof over Delmas Avenue. Some of these old businessmen have held this town down as long as they could. They didn't want any large chain stores to move in, but they came anyhow and have all kinds of parking space and the oldtimers think that they will get the taxpayers to beautify their street. But we will never pay for this. They will just have to do like the rest of the businessmen who were smart enough to move out. We are overloaded now.

By the way, I voted for a man a few years back who said he was going to free the toll bridge. I guess he got. I hope he repented.

I would like to say to these people who work in the shipyard or in town. If you are traveling a long ways to and from work and decide to move this way, you had better check on these high utilities, and high taxes, and these streets, we have been floating bonds to put four inches of black top on. Looks good till the first rain and you couldn't find one half inch of black top at any of the holes. Who got the black top? The taxpayers didn't.

Wouldn't this be a wonderful place to live and raise our family if everyone was honest, and worshiped God. Instead our leaders in Washington dance and drink till all hours of the morning. No wonder we're in a mess. In closing let me say I am a veteran of World War II. I served in Korea, also in the Philippines. I have lived in Pascagoula all my 41 years.

J. D. Cauley  
1100 Ray Ave.  
Pascagoula

## Now You Know

In 1935 Germany began operation of its air force under Hermann Goering.

In 1901, J. P. Morgan incorporated the United States Steel Corp. in New Jersey, the first billion-dollar enterprise.

Arthur Smith  
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10—The Mississippi Press Register

Sunday, February 25, 1968



# g Powder

s the bread  
healthful.

adds the food  
1st alum.

powders are the greatest  
alth of the present day.

POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

v. 8, 1901.

## ARRIED.

December 9, 1901, Mr.  
on and Miss TAMMIE  
O. Smith, Lutheran

December 10, 1901, at the  
e, by Rev. L. E. Hall,  
ND and Miss FANNIE  
Pascagoula.

## SON ITEMS.

## UNSCRIBER.

use has returned from

owze and daughter,  
Saturday for Hatties-  
will spend the holi-

W. Bozeman have  
visit to Moss Point.

paid a business visit  
his week.

son, T. A. Coulson,  
and Liebhard Blu-  
nt are business visit-

l buggy riding Sun-

owze is a business

ry to hear of War-  
ss and wish him a

have the mule?

a crowd of young  
t the home of Mr.  
fearon, where they  
entertained.

ork done at the DEM  
if you want artistic  
ble figures. No stop  
a his office.

W. A. Hood, Milton, Fla. J. J. Kuhn,  
New Orleans, E. M. Barber, Ernest  
Her, Biloxi.

Let there be lights in the streets.

The new bridge across Fort Bayou  
was opened to the public on Wednes-  
day morning last.

Mr. J. M. Dunseth, wife and daugh-  
ter, Clara, Mrs. I. A. Yeazel and Mrs.  
M. C. Kirkpatrick, of Webana, Ill.  
are occupying the Cooley cottage for  
the season.

Mrs. Julia Burghalter, of Hillsboro,  
Ill., Mrs. Minna Turk and daughter,  
Miss Bertha, of Staunton, Ill., Mrs.  
Eliza Parsons and niece, Miss May  
Parsons and Miss May Donaldson, of  
North Hampton, Mass. are guests of  
Mrs. M. L. Holcomb at Hollywood.

Major Weed united in marriage on  
the 4th inst. Miss Ida Cruthirds and  
Mr. Chas. Wells, both of Fort Bayou.

Mr. Le Bel and sister were here  
Monday.

Mr. W. R. Simmons and family are  
residing at West Pascagoula.

We think Edwin Westbrook was in  
Scranton Sunday. Bring home that  
book!

Messrs. W. H. Meyer and J. T. Lan-  
ders, of Atlanta arrived here Wed-  
nesday morning for the remains of  
W. B. Bivens, who was killed by an  
L. & N. train last week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Davenport and  
handsome little son Dryden are re-  
cent arrivals from Chicago. They  
are occupying the Rosambeau cottage.

The Twentieth Century Club was  
entertained at the home of Miss  
Maria Honor last Friday. A pleas-  
ant evening was spent.

The many friends of Mr. Jerry  
O'Keefe will be pleased to learn that  
his bright young son John, who is a  
student at the Jesuit College in New  
Orleans has been advanced from first  
sergeant to first lieutenant in the  
Jesuit cadets.

Mr. B. F. Joachim was quite ill  
Tuesday night, but is much improved  
at this writing.

Miss Minnie Powell is filling the  
position of operator in the telephone  
office during the absence of Leo Ro-  
sambeau, who is visiting in New Or-  
leans.

Mrs. A. V. Rosambeau has returned  
from a visit to relatives in New Or-  
leans.

## Various Sources.

## CHURCHES.

METHODIST—Rev. W. H. Featherston, pastor  
Preaching every Sunday morning and night; pray-  
er meeting every Wednesday evening. Sunday  
school every Sunday at 9:30 a. m.

BAPTIST—Eld. H. L. Mitchell, pastor. Preach-  
ing every Sunday, morning and night; prayer  
meeting every Thursday night. Sunday school  
every Sunday at 9:30 a. m.

PRESBYTERIAN—Rev. W. O. Stephen, pastor.  
Preaching each Sabbath at 11 a. m. and 7:15 p. m.  
Prayer meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p. m.

CATHOLIC—Sunday school every Sunday at 9:30  
a. m. Mass every second Sunday at 7:30 a. m.

## A PRETTY WEDDING.

On Wednesday evening at 8:30  
o'clock, Miss Lyllah Eva, second  
daughter of Mr. W. H. Graham, of  
this place and Mr. John J. Wirth, of  
Birmingham, Ala. were married in  
the First Methodist church by Rev. J.  
B. Cummings, pastor of the Govern-  
ment street Methodist church, of Mo-  
bile. The church, brilliantly illumi-  
nated was decorated with flowers,  
evergreens, palms and pot plants,  
producing a variety of tints and  
making altogether a beautiful effect.

The bride was costumed in white  
silk trimmed with chiffon ruffles and  
pearl passementerie, wearing a bridal  
wreath with lilies of the valley. She  
was led to the altar by her father.

Her boquet was crescent shaped  
made of lilies of the valley surround-  
ed by a garniture of brides roses and  
maiden hair ferns.

Her sister, Miss Daisy Graham, who  
was exquisitely robed in pink silk  
acting as bridesmaid. The groom  
was attended by his best man, Dr.  
F. B. Ferrill, of this place. During  
the ceremony the couple stood under  
a bell of roses hanging from the ceil-  
ing. The entrance of the bridal  
party was to the strains of the wed-  
ding march from Lohengrin rendered  
by Miss Belle Denny. While the  
solemn words were uttered by the  
minister the sweet voice of Miss  
Mamie Mitchell was heard in "Call  
Me Thine Own." Mendelssohn's wed-  
ding march was played by Miss Belle  
Denny at the exit.

After leaving the church the bridal  
party proceeded to the residence of  
the bride's parents, where a reception  
was held. Messrs. C. W. Jackson,  
Guy Faulk, of Moss Point, J. W.  
Dean and W. H. Graham, Jr. served  
as ushers.

Miss Graham, who was reared in this  
community is an accomplished and  
graceful young lady and has a large  
number of friends. Mr. Wirth is a  
prosperous business man of Birming-  
ham.

Mr. and Mrs. Wirth left on the  
night Louisville & Nashville fast  
train for their future home, after re-  
ceiving the congratulations and good  
wishes of their many friends. They  
were the recipients of numerous and  
costly presents.

Miss Katie Rayford, an attractive  
young lady of Mobile attended the  
Graham-Wirth wedding this week.

Just received a selection of new  
goods for the Christmas holidays at  
W. O. PARKS, jeweler.

Miss Willie McInnis and Mrs. B. B.  
Algeo, after a pleasant visit to Mr. J.  
McIntosh and family returned to

Miss Katie Swan is visiting—Mrs.  
Geo. C. Southard in Mobile.

A large lot of fountain pens.

Every one guaranteed at Stewart's.

## DEATH OF MRS. ADAM BLUMER.

Mrs. Amelia Blumer was the daughter  
of Mr. John P. and Mrs. Mary M. Menk  
and was born near Wisbaden, Germany,  
October 17, 1843 and died at Moss Point,  
Miss., Dec. 5, 1901. When she was at the  
age of eight years her father, with his  
family came to the United States and  
settled at Mobile, Ala. In and near this  
historic city she lived until the date of  
her marriage. At Whistler, Ala. Feb.  
21, 1865 she was united in marriage to  
Mr. Adam Blumer, when they removed  
to Handsboro, Miss., where they remain-  
ed until 1872, when they settled in Moss  
Point, Miss., which has been their home  
ever since.

The issue of this happy marriage was  
ten children, six sons and four daugh-  
ters. Two sons and two daughters  
preceded her to the blessed home beyond,  
leaving her faithful, affectionate hus-  
band and six of her offspring to survive  
her.

She was baptized in the Episcopal  
church, and in early life was confirmed  
into full communion. There being no  
church of that denomination in Moss  
Point, and believing that it would be  
for the best interests of their family for  
both parents to be identified with the  
same church, she united with the Pres-  
byterian church some years ago, during  
the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Bingham, of  
blessed memory.

The summons came not altogether un-  
expectedly, but suddenly.

She occupied her accustomed place at  
the tea table that evening, and in less  
than an hour the lamp of life had gone  
out, only to shine the brighter in the  
home of the redeemed.

The last words that fell from her lips  
were a prayer. She was conscious to  
the last, and pled that if it was the  
Lord's will, to spare her to her husband  
and children; but as the pulse grew  
fainter and the flow of life was ebbing  
away, she was heard to say: "Lord, thy  
will be done." Then the peace of  
eternal rest hushed the mother voice  
forever.

She was an industrious, affectionate,  
and faithful wife, and a sacrificing,  
model mother. She was a pious mother,  
and the well regulated Christian con-  
duct of all her children is the best evi-  
dence that she stamped her character  
with the impress of her life.

A host of friends will miss her in  
the church circles, in their homes, and  
her pleasant face shall be seen no more  
about her well ordered home, but she  
has joined that great multitude which  
John saw standing before the throne of  
God dressed in white robes, with palms  
in their hands, "They shall hunger no  
more, neither thirst any more; neither  
shall the sun light on them, nor the  
heat. For the Lamb which is in the  
midst of the throne shall feed them, and  
shall lead them unto living fountains of  
water, and God shall wipe away all  
tears from their eyes."

"Servant of God well done!  
Rest from thy loved employ;  
The battle fought, the victory won,  
Enter thy Master's joy.

The voice at midnight came  
He started up to hear  
A mortal arrow pierced his frame  
He fell, but felt no fear.

His spirit with a bound  
Left its encumbering clay  
His tent, at sunrise, on the ground  
A darkened ruin lay.

Soldier of Christ, well done!  
Praise be thy employ;  
And while eternal ages run,  
Rest in thy Savior's joy."

W. O. STEPHEN.

# istmas Goods

TO SUIT ALL

M. M. CANTY'S.

REWORKS.

3,  
T OAKE,  
RRIES,

FANCY BOOKS,  
GAMES, BALLS,  
TOPS, PICTURES,  
DINNER SETS



Arthur Smith 2-20-68

## A. Blumer Built Point's First Industrial Complex



Blumer

An industrial complex is really nothing new for Moss Point. As far back as 1888 the diversified factories, shops, docks and other enterprises of the late Adam Blumer were strung along the Escatawpa River from Robinson Street for half a mile downstream.

They were on both sides of the old sawdust road that many people who drove their animal-drawn conveyances or trod over its spongy surface still remember.

All of Mr. Blumer's structures and his once humming activities have yielded to change and time and the only physical remnant is the home of the founder at 197 Main Street. Mrs. Joan Head and her five young daughters now live there. She is the widow of the late Robert W. Head, who was a great grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Blumer. Mrs. Blumer died Dec. 5, 1901 and Mr. Blumer passed away March 4, 1914.

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Mr. Blumer was born in Switzerland January 3, 1839 and came to Mobile at age 15 where he married Amelia Mink, a native of Germany.

Just when they moved to Moss Point where Mr. Blumer saw the need for small factories and clothing and food processing plants to accommodate the many sawmills and their workers is not certain. Mr. and Mrs. Blumer had nine children, four of whom died at early ages. Sons Henry, Emile, John and Lienhard grew up to help manage the Blumer businesses and industries, and a daughter, Alberta, married the late R. L. Head who was a merchant in Pascagoula and an alderman in Moss Point.

An advertisement in the October 2, 1888 issue of the Scranton Democrat-Star thanks customers for "Past patronage and invites a continuation of same." A specialty was "furniture and household good," the ad said.

Here are some of the other items and services offered: General merchandise "usually kept in a first-class store." Stoves at prices lower than Mobile or New Orleans offer. First-

class hand-made shingles, and the products of two factories.

Blumer

One of the factories was a grist mill, producing fresh meal, grits, hominy, cracked corn and feed of all kinds. He said he would deliver the feed for no charge in Moss Point or Scranton.

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The "Custom Shoe Department" was the place where "a person could get the best shoes for the least money." The ad went on to say: "No paper soles, pasteboard counters or wooden heels are used in my shoe factory — none but genuine oak-tanned leather, and I defy competition as to prices and quality."

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In another column, I will try to elaborate on his extensive operations in Moss Point and Pascagoula which affected the advancements in culture and industry of both communities.



# By Federal Grant of \$91,416

Blumer 9

## Robert Lee Head, Prominent Citizen, Dies At Hospital

Dec 24, 1947

Robert Lee Head, prominent in business, civic and church circles in Moss Point, Pascagoula, died at the Jackson County hospital Tuesday morning, December 23. Mr. Head had suffered recurrent attacks of illness for the past several years and was taken to the hospital for this last illness Saturday.

Born in Shepherdville, Ky., on May 18, 1870, he came to Pascagoula in 1902 in connection with the building of the Pascagoula street railway, a car line operating between the Pascagoula beachfront and Moss Point.

He later became associated with the Johnson Furniture Company in Moss Point and in 1912 established the Head Furniture and Hardware company in Moss Point. During the first World War he opened a branch store in Pascagoula and later incorporated the Moss Point store with this. The Pascagoula store is one of the oldest in point of continuous operation under the same management in the city.

In 1905, Mr. Head married Miss Alberta Blumer, daughter of one of Moss Point's oldest and most prominent families. Two children were born to them, both of whom survive Mr. Head. Mrs. Head died several years ago.

### Progressive Citizen

He was active in both civic and religious groups, and was a progressive citizen, supporting worthwhile movements and city developments. He was a member of the Board of Aldermen, a position he had held for the past 17 years.

Mr. Head was a member of the First Baptist church where he served on the Board of Deacons and was superintendent of the Sunday school for more than 30 years. A special ceremony mark-

(Continued On Page 4)

## C. E. Wells, Father Of School Head.

## Schools Faced Curtailment After Holidays

The Pascagoula school system has again been "saved by the bell" financially by a \$91,416 federal grant which is being processed and will be available by January 1, Superintendent of Schools Thomas R. Wells was notified by telegram yesterday.

The Moss Point school system was also granted \$19,551 recently from the same source—the Federal Works Agency—as one of the communities requiring aid as the result of a swollen wartime population.

The federal grant, together with other funds available, represents ninety-four per cent of the budget requirements of the two schools.

Mr. Wells said that funds were depleted at the time the telegram arrived and that emergency measures would have been required when schools re-opened after the holidays.

The grant climaxed months of efforts on the part of school and other public officials and was granted under a measure introduced and pushed through by Representative William M. Colmer.

### The Last

While school officials breathed a sigh of relief that they had crossed this hurdle, they have been warned that the present grant is absolutely the last they can expect and that the local economy must undertake the financing in full after this year. The grant represents \$108,000 from the government in addition to revenue available to complete the approximate three hundred thousand dollar budget required to operate the schools under their present standards.

Mr. Wells stated that an appropriate one hundred thousand dollar deficit is in prospect for the next school year in the Pascagoula schools alone.

Unless there is a substantial

(Continued On Page 4)

**ERROR:** In the Vatican, Pope Pius XII is to greet a friend, left. At the same time, Giovanni Urbani signals to an assistant. This ballet-like picture.



A 17-year-old youth, left, holds a revolver and uses it to shoot another boy and uses him as a shield in a gun fight with Boston police. The youth was captured from behind.

## J. Guy Krebs Injured Slightly In Auto Crash

Sheriff-elect J. Guy Krebs suffered a broken collar bone and miraculously escaped more serious injury Saturday afternoon when his car overturned three times after colliding with a truck six miles out of Lucedale on Highway 1.



Blumer

Police are continuing an intensive hunt, Byrd said.

## Lienard Blumer, Native Of County Dies In Orleans

Lienard Blumer, 70, a native and former resident of Moss Point, died Friday at Mercy Hospital in New Orleans following a heart attack the previous day.

Member of one of Moss Point's oldest families, he was born in Moss Point and spent his boyhood there, later moving to New Orleans.

He was a marine engineer until his retirement. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and a member of Metairie Lodge 444 F&AM Masons.

Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Rosalie Leonard Blumer, New Orleans; two sons, Lienard, Jr., of New Orleans and A. F. Blumer of Baton Rouge; one daughter, Mrs. R. C. Damonte of St. Louis; a brother, John Blumer of Tampa; and two grand daughters.

Funeral services were held Saturday at Metairie Presbyterian Church of which he was an elder. Interment was in Garden of Memories Cemetery with graveside rites by the masonic lodge.

## Moss Point Grill Broken Into Twice

The Bayou Grill, Bellview Street, Moss Point, was broken into both Thursday and Friday nights, Moss Point marshal A. S. Massey said today.

In both instances thieves gained entrance by breaking through a back window, Massey said. Only merchandise taken was a quantity of candy and gum.

Thieves have broken into the establishment twice previously, Massey said.

PASCA-  
ty's utility  
me as well  
of Dimet  
campaign at  
(half Photo)

## Monday Victim Accident

They were held  
Louverne Al-  
daughter of Mr. and  
son of East Pitts-  
is killed in an  
accident in Chata-

and paternal  
and Mrs. O. J.  
Wash., she  
Jackson County  
lives with her  
J. Henleys,  
when the

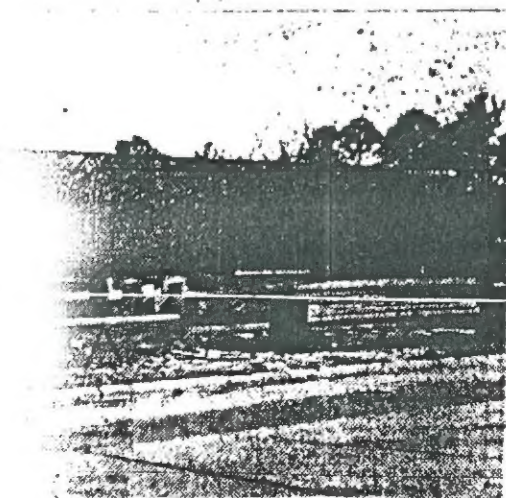
released from  
Hospital Saturday  
Point Sunday  
Tommy Lapatka,  
squad.

held from Moss  
Monday with  
officiating.  
Hope Cem-

SHAKER -- A  
(AP) -- A  
returned  
what is be-  
of the oldest

ite said a  
rner, Pierre  
developed  
1951. It was  
a velocipede  
and as a "bone-

Chronicle Star  
1-8-58  
7



SHOPPING CENTER RISES ON MARKET  
2,000 square feet of space, will be occupied by a  
as negotiations for rentals are completed, Baton  
(Chronicle Staff Photo)



are continuing an in-  
tently hunt for a

Jan 7, 1958  
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Blumer

Blumer 12

3649 Waynoka Ave.  
Memphis, Tenn. 38111  
September 10, 1970

The Mississippi Press  
210 Delmas Avenue  
Pascagoula, Miss. 39567

Attention: Mr. Arthur Smith

Arthur Smith  
Collection

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Dear Mr. Smith:

If available, I would like to have six issues of your newspaper of August 31, 1970.

I am interested in the article by you about my grandfather, Adam Blumer, of Moss Point.

You also refer to three previous articles by you about A. Blumer, written nearly two years ago. I would like very much to have six copies each of the papers in which these three articles appeared. If these papers are not available, I would sincerely like to have Xerox copies of the articles to which you refer.

Please advise expense involved in above requests, and I will mail you check to cover immediately.

Another enterprise that flourished in Moss Point prior to and immediately after the turn of the century was Dantzler Lumber Co. This concern, from their different mills in South Mississippi, was at one time the largest manufacturers of lumber in the United States, and in all probability it could be presumed that this would mean the largest shipper in the world.

Dantzler would bring their pine logs on large rafts down the Pascagoula and Escawtapa Rivers to their mill at Moss Point.

The Company had a number of tugs, the names of some I recall: The Pic, The Victor, The Laura, the Lee Kimball and the Eran Dantzler. As a boy, how beautiful they looked to me. The Laura, Lee Kimball and Eran Dantzler were their big tugs and would move export lumber by barge to South and Central America.

Our neighbor in Moss Point was Captain Coulson, Captain of the Dantzler tug, Victor. Frequently he would permit me to go with him up river to bring back a tow of logs. To a boy this was "really living". I can still smell the food cooking in the galley. Sometimes we would be three days returning to Moss Point.

By the way, I recently heard report that the remaining timber owned by the Dantzler Estate was sold for thirty million dollars.

Thanking you for your attention to my requests in the first part of this letter, I am,

Yours truly,

Emile Blumer

Emile Blumer, 3649 Waynoka Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38111

Sept 11 '70 <sup>Blumer</sup>

Dear Mr Smith -

Blumer 13

Here is some information relative to my grandfather A. Blumer which may be of interest to you.

A. Blumer did establish a small glass producing plant in Mass Point as mentioned by Mrs Gautier. As she said in her letter the sand came from Horn Island. I dare say Pittsburgh Plate glass records do not go back this far. They did not buy the plant.

Attach xerox copy of first page of my grandfather's ledger or day book covering operation of store in Hansboro, Miss., dated Dec 1, 1866. This was soon after end of Civil war, and his discharge from Army of The Confederacy. The name J. F. Salzman, first entry on the page, I am sure, would represent the Salzman Lbr Co - later to become very prominent factors in the production of lumber, in and around Slidell, La.

Arthur Smith  
Collection

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DO NOT CIRCULATE



2 I made copy of another page of the ledger, on which I have checked an item "1 quarter Venison \$1.25". Thraugh out the ledger there are numerous items listed of the sale of Venison or deer - the price is always cheap. Blumer 14

It is a matter of surprise to me that prices on so many of the items are expensive, and compare closely with present day prices. It seems items produced locally or in adjacent areas are cheap - but those produced ~~and~~ <sup>or</sup> manufactured in North are expensive.

During the war my grandfather was captured by the Federals and held in prison Camp in Chicago. He and a Mr Pap from New Orleans, tunneled out and escaped one Easter night, and made it back to the Confederate lines, with the help of Southern sympathizers, and rejoined the Southern Army and continued there until the end of the war.

Arthur Smith  
Collection

Sincerely  
Emile Blumer

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
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3649 Waynoka Ave  
Memphis Tenn - 38111

umer  
noka Ave.  
Tenn. 38111



*Arthur Smith*

The Mississippi Press  
210 Delmas Avenue  
Pascagoula, Miss. 39567



## A. Blumer Built Point's First Industrial Complex



Blumer 17

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In another column, I will try to elaborate on his extensive operations in Moss Point and Pascagoula which affected the advancements in culture and industry of both communities.

Blumer 18

circle of loved ones. She was  
mist of her usefulness in the  
in the church. Her merit  
to her reward a little  
before.

the man  
and younger  
sibility of  
of those rare, amiable, sweet and loving  
characters, which are so delightful to  
know, but of which only a few are  
found. The  
character and the affectionateness of  
her nature had been made so manifest  
that the heart of her brothers and  
sisters and sisters-in-law  
theres.

joy in those retiring  
that well-ordered home, but  
to the hand of eternal  
never fading flowers  
ceaselessly bloom, and her restfulness is  
now perfect, for in her illness she suf-  
fered intensely until the peaceful hand  
of the death angel bore her hence. She  
had a large circle of friends, who will  
and pi

"Calmly and  
the home of



**RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.**

Whereas it has pleased the Supreme  
Court of Heaven to remove from  
this Camp and the bosom of his family  
our beloved Sovereign Peter Emile  
Blumer, therefore be it

Resolved by Scranton Camp No. 1

to rely in hope  
of one who was ever true to the prin-  
ciples of Waterloo—one whom we  
loved and respected as a true Sov-  
ereign.

death all  
whose love  
ded to the

to these  
best symp-  
pathy of love.

**TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.**

To the memory of Miss Bettie Blumer  
by the Ladies' Aid Society of the  
Moss Point Presbyterian Church.

God has deemed it wise to  
take to himself our beloved friend  
a new-worker, therefore, be it  
resolved, That we bow submissively  
to the Divine decree, feeling that our  
Heavenly Father knows best, and  
while we deeply deplore her loss, and  
miss at all times the pleasant smile  
and kindly face of one who ever gave  
her Master loving service. We feel  
that she has gone where there is never  
more pain or heartache, separation or  
tears. Be it further

Resolved, That we extend to the  
sorrowing father, sister and brothers,  
our heartfelt sympathy and pray that  
they may be comforted and sustained  
in their affliction. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these reso-  
lutions be furnished the family of  
deceased and also spread upon the  
minutes of the Ladies' Aid Society.

Mrs. O. RANDALL,  
Mrs. Geo. W. O'NEILL,  
Miss FLORENCE MCINNIS,  
Committee.

Moss Point, Mo. March 17, 1903.

**TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.**

Once more has the Ladies' Aid Society  
of the Moss Point Presbyterian church  
been called upon to mourn the loss of  
one of its oldest and most active mem-  
bers, the church a loyal and devoted  
worker, and the city a valued and use-  
ful citizen.

Whereas, God has in his wisdom seen  
fit to remove from her work on earth  
our beloved and worthy member, Mrs.  
ANGELA BLUMER,

Therefore, Be it resolved that we bow  
in humble submission to the Divine  
Will and bear testimony to her energy  
and enthusiasm in our work. The re-  
sults of her labor will live long after  
her.

Be it further resolved, That we tender  
our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved  
husband and children.

Be it further resolved, That a copy of

by Miss Elizabeth  
the land of eternal  
illness of heart  
can be compared  
taking of one of the  
is from a fair garden.  
her life in every respect.  
no course of her  
who followed her to the church  
attested the exalted place  
in the hearts of all who knew  
After a tender farewell  
father,  
she was conveyed  
church, where  
y, pastor, delivered  
a touching eulogy. The choir and  
thou sang her favorite hymns,  
the Deacon presiding at the  
s land near her  
cemetery. Mes-  
srs. William McInnis, G.  
Lay J. McLeod, Peter M.  
P. Herring, and  
bearers. Rev. W. C. H. pastor  
Methodist church, led at  
emony. The offerings  
Among  
at the funeral  
Mr. H. Den-  
hard of Hardsboro, Mr. John F. Papp,  
and Miss Rebecca Grant, of Beaver,  
Mr. J. E. McHugh, of Mobile; Misses  
J. H. Ford, W. D. Hodges, A. G.  
Delmas, I. P. Delmas, I. J. Delmas,  
Miss Merced Delmas; Messrs. A. G.  
Delmas and C. Nelson, of Scranton.



Arthur Smith

8-31-70

# A. Blumer had it all back in 1891

The story of a merchandising and manufacturing complex that flourished in Moss Point well before 1891 and for at least two decades thereafter is partly told in an old clipping I came across advertising some of the owner's enterprises.

It is from The Scranton Democrat-Star of Oct. 2, 1891, and concerns the various retail and manufacturing establishments A. Blumer operated on the banks of the Escatawpa River on Main Street and the Randall Ferry Road north and south of the intersection with Dantzler Avenue. None of the establishments and scarcely any visible evidences of the complex remain.

The advertisement was expressed in the commercial styles of the era and reads:

"A. Blumer, Moss Point, Miss., proprietor of Moss Point Grist Mill and dealer in general merchandise usually kept in a first-class store.

"Furniture and housekeeping goods of all kinds a speciality. Stoves are sold

lower than New Orleans or Mobile prices, as I buy them for spot cash direct from the manufacturers."

"STEAM GRIST MILL: Fresh meal, grits, hominy, chops, cracked corn and feed of all kinds sold at lowest market prices and delivered free of charge within city limits.

"CUSTOM SHOE DEPARTMENT: Where a person can get the best shoes for the least money. No paper soles, pasteboard counters or wooden heels are used in my shoe factory. None but genuine oak-tanned leather, and I defy competition as to price and quality.

"Also I have on hand first-class hand-made shingles for sale at reasonable prices."

Mr. Blumer was one of the most industrious and mechanically talented men who ever came to Jackson County from a foreign land. Though not visionary and lacking the essential ability to adjust to changing conditions and project his various businesses beyond his

years of personal guidance, he was exceptionally adept in recognizing the needs of the era in which he lived and manufacturing or retailing them to the public.

Nearly two years ago in three separate columns I wrote about this unusual man and his operations in Moss Point. At the risk of being repetitious or slovenly in additional research I review here some of the facts cited in those columns.

A NATIVE OF Switzerland, Mr. Blumer arrived in Mobile at age 15. Soon thereafter he married a German girl, Amelia Mink, and about 1866 was operating a sawmill in Handsboro. Sometimes before 1871 he moved to Moss Point.

He built a home which is still standing at 197 Main Street and established a general merchandising store. He built a dock on the river to receive supplies by boat from New Orleans. Then his perceptiveness of what people needed and could buy in that distressful period of recovery from the Civil War inspired

him to undertake to manufacture some of the commodities he was importing from northern sources.

He enlarged his store and merchandise, became postmaster in 1874, served until 1872, and served another term from 1885 until 1890. In the meantime he was establishing small factories to supply the area's industrial and building needs that could be had only from distant markets.

The grist mill was among the first. Then came a factory to make wagon and buggy spokes, handles for hand tools and other products from local hardwoods. Then he built a tannery and began to make shoes and boots. For all of these Blumer processed raw materials from local sources. He trained skilled workers or hired them from the sawmills which were springing up on the Escatawpa River.

A BRICK YARD was built. Some of the bricks are in older Moss Point buildings. The largest and most expensive operation of all was Blumer's Foundry.

It was complete. He moulded, cast and machined sawmill machinery, steam engines for mills and boats.

Mr. Blumer acquired considerable real estate in Pas-Point, and built several public structures and many tenant houses. Blumer's Hall on Main Street was a center for performing arts and public meetings.

A religious man, he was one of the organizers of the Presbyterian Church. His four sons, Henry, Emile, John and Lienhard, grew up to become identified with his operations. The only daughter, Amelia, married the late R. L. Head, a merchant. None of the children are living.

## In circles

Way things are today, the only way to make ends meet is to run around in circles. — Beaumont (Tex.) Enterprise.

Arthur Smith  
Collection

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DONOR: CIRCULAR

Blumer

Blumer 20

✓



1.

Saturday Decr 1<sup>st</sup> 1866

XX Inds Dr To ~~Stock of~~ Salinan  
For amt. Inty.

XX To Asblum  
For amt. Inventory.

Inds Dr To Sundries

XX Asblum & Frank	Bill 3 <sup>rd</sup>	720 06
XX A Ross & Co	" 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	255 49
XX P Dwyer	" 5 <sup>th</sup>	633 62
XX Plancard & Dutet	" 4 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	443 44
XX Asblum	" 4 <sup>th</sup>	312 15
XX Flegel & Co	" 5 <sup>th</sup>	155 26
XX Claret & Co	" 5 <sup>th</sup>	178 00
XX J M Coffey	" 5 <sup>th</sup>	144 13
XX Muller & Paisant		26 00

Handwritten header text, possibly a date or location.

Blumer 22

Mr. Ray by hunting 7 50

Mr. Perkins  
 12 lbs. salt 0.50 2 1/2 1/2 quarts Vaseline 1.25 5 00  
 1 lb. lard 3.50 1 lb. lard 2.25 5 75  
 1 lb. butter 1.25 1 lb. butter 2 1/2 1/2 1. 10

Mr. Dodge  
 1 lb. lard 3.50 1 lb. lard 2.25 5 75  
 1 lb. butter 1.25 1 lb. butter 2 1/2 1/2 1. 10

Mr. Thayer  
 1 lb. lard 3.50 1 lb. lard 2.25 5 75  
 needles 10 salt 20. 1.25

Mr. Mayers  
 1 lb. lard 3.50 1 lb. lard 2.25 5 75

Mr. Ramsay  
 1 lb. lard 3.50 1 lb. lard 2.25 5 75

Mr. Maggias Delgado  
 9 lbs. salt 1 80

Mr. Watson  
 1 lb. lard 3.50 1 lb. lard 2.25 5 75  
 plug Pot 60  
 1 lb. lard 3.50 1 lb. lard 2.25 5 75

Mr. Green  
 1 lb. lard 3.50 1 lb. lard 2.25 5 75  
 1 lb. lard 3.50 1 lb. lard 2.25 5 75

Mr. Blair  
 1 lb. lard 3.50 1 lb. lard 2.25 5 75

Handwritten signature or mark.





# Handsboro church always small, but strong

## Nucleus of Presbyterian worshippers keep historic church active for 102 years

This is the second of a continuing but irregular series of articles by Staff Writer Leslie Watkins in which she looks at one of the Gulf Coast's original houses of worship and relates its origin and history.

By LESLIE WATKINS  
STAFF WRITER

The sprawling live oak trees in front of the Handsboro Presbyterian Church seem suspended in time, as if their knotted, winding limbs shield this small, neighborhood church from the transformations taking place beyond its picture-book, white picket fence.

Behind the oaks, nestled among palms and an assortment of flowering bushes, the historic, white-clapboard structure with dark-green shutters and rust-colored shingles stands resistant to change. Its tall, tapered steeple peeks above the tops of autumn-colored trees as it has for the past 102 years.

According to Mrs. A.E. Fant, a native of Handsboro who grew up in the church and who now is researching its history, the sanctuary that stands at the corner of Pass Road and Bridge Street, a long jump west of Cowan Road, was dedicated on Sept. 21, 1881, two years after the original church burned to the ground and 14 years after the church was organized on Nov. 18, 1877.

According to Mrs. Fant's research, Handsboro Presbyterian was organized by the New Orleans Presbytery, a local governing body of the church that, at the time, included the Mississippi and Alabama coasts. The presbytery sent a committee of two ministers to Handsboro: The Rev. A.J. Witherspoon, a doctor of divinity from New Orleans, and the Rev. W.C. Clark, a minister from Pass Christian. When presbytery boundaries changed in 1901, the young church became part of the newly formed Meridian Presbytery.

A thriving mill town, Handsboro was the Coast's cultural and industrial hub during the latter part of the 19th century. Many of the families who settled in the neighborhood, as well as the 12 initial members of Handsboro Presbyterian Church, had come to Mississippi by way of Europe or New England.

Henry Lienhard, a lumberman, shipbuilder and one of Handsboro's most prominent residents at the time, had come to the United States from Switzerland; his wife was a native of Prussia, according to the 1880 census, Mrs. Fant said. The gorgeous pillared mansion Lienhard built for his family still graces the corner of Commerce Street and Tegarden Road.

"He saw to it that they had music in church on Sunday, that the music was all rehearsed and ready to go, and he even sang in the choir," Mrs. Fant said about Lienhard, who also had a reputation for attending more presbytery meetings than anyone else.

The other charter members were Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Myers, who came from the Washington D.C. area; Mrs. H.M. Myers; Mrs. H.L. Fawell, who came from Vermont; Louis Kloppenburg; Mrs. S.G. Fowler, who came from Virginia; Mrs. E.F. Fleming; a Mrs. Hensley; Miss Eliza Cuendet, who was born in France; and Fritz Salzman, a nephew of Lienhard's, who was born in Switzerland.

The Rev. S.J. Bingham, the first pastor to be called to preach, died in 1881. Initially, church members met in the Handsboro Masonic Hall, another neighborhood landmark that was built in 1854 and is located just a few yards southwest of the church. Other young churches also used the hall for worship services.

That arrangement, however, changed in the spring of 1882. Dr. J.J. Harry, another prominent resident who was married to the Lienhard's daughter Mollie, bought the lot on Pass Road, and the congregation began to build its first church. It was dedicated in October.

Seven years later, in August, 1889, the church burned to the ground. Handsboro Baptists invited their Presbyterian neighbors to have services in their church, which they did for two years, until another sanctuary was built.

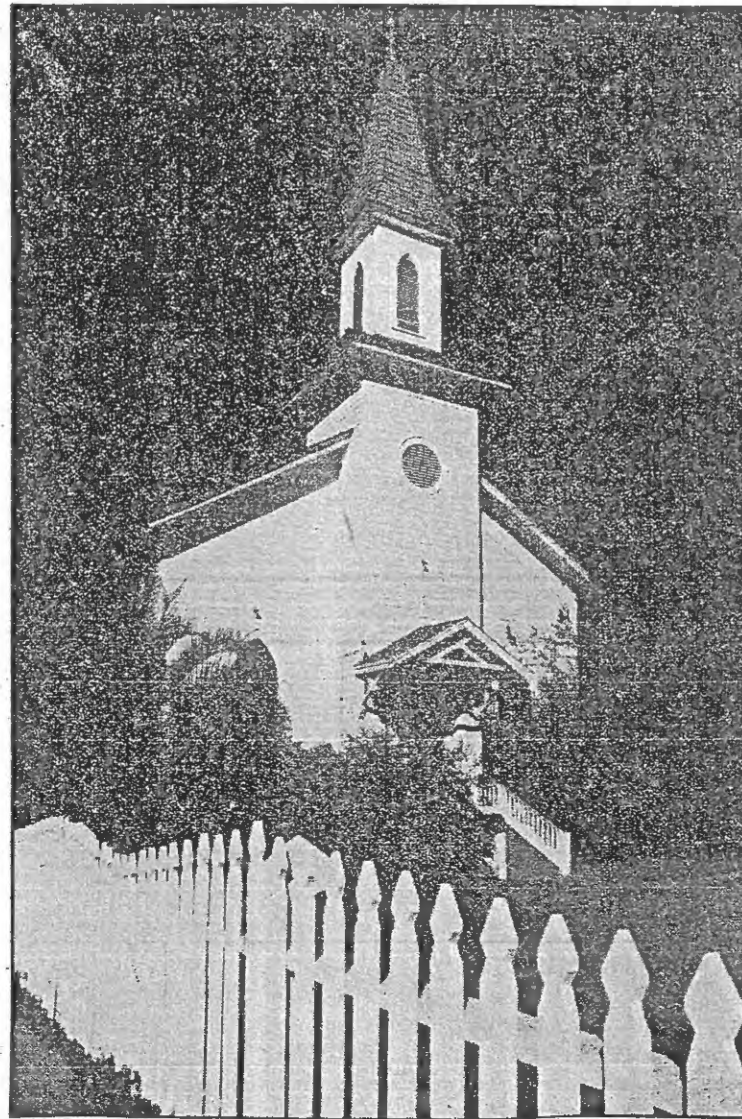
The second building, which cost \$2,000, according to Mrs. Fant, was already paid for when it was dedicated to the congregation. Church minutes indicate that the Ladies Aid Society paid for the organ and chairs, and that they also donated \$12.50 for insurance, which the church had not had when the first building burned.

The Harrys deeded the property to the congregation in 1910 and, after Mollie's death in 1945, Harry built a manse adjacent to the sanctuary and dedicated it her. Until then, Handsboro Presbyterian had not been able to house its own pastor, but had shared a minister with churches in Long Beach, Pass Christian and Wiggins.

The membership of Handsboro Presbyterian has always been small, Mrs. Fant said. Prior to World War II, there never were more than 50 members. Even today there are just about 70 members, according to the Rev. Paul Kendall, who has been pastor since March. Kendall and his wife, Bettie, came to Handsboro from Alabama.

With or without a preacher, though, church members always have insisted on Sunday school. According to Mrs. Fant, Handsboro Presbyterian was well known in the early days for its Union Sunday School which members of the Methodist-Episcopal Church also attended. Only the children of Presbyterians, though, received instruction for catechism.

The congregation's emphasis on Sunday school continued into the 20th century, and, in the 1940s, led to the addition of an education building that was built behind the sanctuary. In 1956, the building was named Dr. Emma Gay Hall, in honor of another Swiss native who gave a great deal of time and financial support to the church. Dr. Gay and her husband, also a physician, came to the Coast from Jackson in 1924 and opened an asthma



Historic Handsboro Presbyterian Church surrounded by white picket fence

## Church

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Clinic, Mrs. Fant said.

At one time, a side street ran in front of the church, but it was closed about 15 or 20 years ago, and the picket fence that surrounds the church was extended to Pass Road. Since then, the sanctuary and the fence have

caught the eye of many Coast photographers and artists.

In the late 1970s, the church honored another of its devoted elders, the late Stephen R. Wilson (who is Mrs. Fant's father), by erecting a fountain near the front steps of the church and dedicating it to him.

"You need to stress that the church has always been small but strong," Mrs. Fant said. "There's a nucleus of people in that church that keeps it going."